

**Minutes of the February 20, 2025 Special Meeting of the Sawyer County
Economic Development and UW-Extension Committee
of the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors
Board Room; Sawyer County**



Voting Committee Members Present:

- ☒ Chair: John Righeimer
- ☒ Vice Chair: Stacey Hessel
- ☒ Steve Kariainen
- ☐ Tom Duffy
- ☐ Randy Neumann

Others Present:

Andy Albarado
Liz Klein

Call to Order – Chair Righeimer called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Certification of Compliance with the open meeting law was met. Roll Call was taken. Quorum was met.

Meeting Agenda -- Set

Public Comments – None

BEAD ENDORSEMENT- Bertram Communications Sarah Lawrenz gave a presentation on the company's history, qualifications, and ongoing fiber installations across the state. The company submitted the Letter of Intent for BEAD funded projects and is picking up leftover BSLs in counties across Wisconsin. Bertram has asked the county for an endorsement to provide fiber broadband to unserved BSLs indicated on a dot map in the Winter-Ojibwa area and surrounding communities of Couderay, Edgewater, Meteor and Draper. Bertram offers 1Gig of data for 99.99/month and free monthly service to Community Anchor Institutions such as town halls and fire halls.

Motion to approve a Sawyer County BEAD Endorsement for Bertram Communications by: Ms. Hessel
Second by: Mr. Kariainen Motion carried without negative vote.

Closed session-

Pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(e) to enter closed session for the purpose of deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session: Acquisition of property for economic development.

A motion to enter closed session was made at 5:53 pm by: Ms. Hessel Second by: Mr. Righeimer
A roll call vote to enter closed session was taken: Mr. Righeimer, Ms. Hessel and Mr. Kariainen voted aye; no negative votes.

Motion to return to open session at 6:07 pm by: Ms. Hessel Second by: Mr. Kariainen
Motion carried without negative vote.

The chair reported that no action was taken during closed session.

Meeting adjourned at 6:07 pm
Minutes recorded by Liz Klein, County Clerk